

years. In February, the administration proposed reauthorizing the law for only 5 years while cutting funding by 60 percent and funding that reduced portion with a controversial Federal land sale scheme.

Senator BAUCUS and I have proposed a sensible, alternative funding source for county payments. Our legislation fully funds county payments by ensuring that a portion of Federal taxes are withheld from payments by the Federal government to government contractors. The Federal Government currently does not withhold taxes when it pays government contractors. In May, the Republican-led Congress approved a major tax bill that uses our funding provision to instead provide tax cuts for the most fortunate Americans, leaving rural counties with fewer options and growing fiscal concerns.

As I have said before, I will hold these nominees and every nominee coming after them, if necessary, until the administration steps to the plate and delivers some leadership in finding a way to fund county payments.

#### RENEWABLE ENERGY

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to join Senator GRASSLEY and other distinguished Senate colleagues in cosponsoring S. Con. Res. 97. Under this concurrent resolution, the United States sets a goal to provide at least 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the United States from renewable resources by January 1, 2025.

I have said many times and very firmly believe that our energy future will be grown on our farms, ranches, and forests.

In my State of Montana, our farmers are already producing food and fiber for our country. Before long, they will be producing food, fiber, and fuel as agriculture will become part of the energy business. It is important we have the technology available so we do not have to choose between producing food or fuel. In Montana and elsewhere, technology is already being developed to produce cellulosic ethanol. Unlike traditional corn-based ethanol, cellulosic ethanol will use materials such as wheat straw and barley straw. These materials, once discarded as waste, can now be turned into energy.

On August 8, 2005, this Congress passed one of the most comprehensive energy research, development, and conservation bills this country has seen in decades: the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Now, just 1 year later, the initial outcomes are impressive. Twenty-seven new ethanol plants have broken ground. Over 400 E85 pumps have been installed. New wind power production has spurred over \$3 billion in economic activity and generated 2,000 megawatts of new usable wind power online. These figures are staggering but pale in comparison to the accomplishments that are possible in the next 20 years.

We have set an ambitious goal. I am pleased this resolution does not include mandates for how to achieve this en-

ergy vision. The combination of American ingenuity and widespread public support for this initiative will move the free market toward achieving this attainable goal.

#### HOSTILITIES BETWEEN HEZBOLLAH AND ISRAEL

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join Senator DODD, Senator SUNUNU and our other cosponsors in offering Senate Resolution 548, which expresses the sense of the Senate regarding the need for the United States and the international community to take certain actions with respect to the hostilities between Hezbollah and Israel.

Like all Americans, I am deeply concerned about the ongoing violence and the loss of civilian lives in the Middle East.

Hezbollah, an organization on the State Department's list of terrorist organizations, must accept full responsibility for sparking this latest round of violence. I support Israel's right to defend itself in response to Hezbollah's acts of terrorism against it. As this resolution urges, I hope that the governments of Iran and Syria will end their material and logistical support for Hezbollah and use their significant influence over Hezbollah to disarm the group and release all kidnapped prisoners.

As this resolution also urges, I favor the United States and the international community working with the governments of Israel and Lebanon on an urgent basis to attain a cessation in the hostilities between Hezbollah and Israel based on: the safe return of Israeli soldiers held by Hezbollah; the disarmament of Hezbollah, the removal of all Hezbollah forces from southern Lebanon, and the replacement of those forces with army and security forces of the Government of Lebanon; an reaching an agreement to fully implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559 and to create and deploy an international stabilization force with a clear mandate to enforce a permanent ceasefire.

I also hope that the U.S. Government and the international community will work together to organize an international donors conference to solicit and ensure the provision of international support for the reconstruction of Lebanon's infrastructure; and to remain engaged to promote sustainable peace and security for Israel and Lebanon and the greater Middle East.

#### EUROPEAN UNION COMPLIANCE TO THE KYOTO TREATY

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I want to address a growing misperception concerning the European Union's ability to meet its obligations under the Kyoto Treaty. There are many climate change skeptics who claim that the EU will not be able to meet their greenhouse gas emission reduction targets under the Kyoto Treaty. In turn, they argue that the U.S. should not partici-

pate in any "cap and trade" system for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Under the Kyoto Treaty, the EU has committed to greenhouse gas reductions target of 8 percent below their 1990 emission levels and covers the years 2008 through 2012. This target is shared by the 15 EU member states, EU-15, that existed at the time of the EU ratification of the protocol in May 2001. An additional 10 countries joined the EU in May 2004, eight of which have individual targets under Kyoto that range from 6 to 8 percent below the 1990 levels. Two of them, Malta and Cyprus, are developing countries and, therefore, do not have any emission targets under the treaty.

In December 2005, the EU, as required by the Kyoto Treaty, reported on the progress made toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The report indicated that EU policies and actions by member states to date have made annual carbon dioxide emissions reductions of 5.5 percent in the year 2003 across all 25 of the EU member states, EU-25.

The report makes the following assessments:

For the EU-15:

Existing measures to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases that are projected to be 1.6 percent below the year 1990 levels in 2010. Savings from additional domestic policies and measures being planned by the EU-15 would result in total emission reductions of 6.8 percent.

EU-15 member states forecast that they will be able to achieve lower emissions of 9.3 percent below the year 1990 levels through the use of the Kyoto flexibility mechanisms in the year 2010. They include such activities as emissions trading, forest sequestration, and participating in International projects that result in greenhouse gas reductions through the Joint Implementation and Clean Development Mechanism programs.

For the EU-25:

The total of all member states' projections of greenhouse gas emissions will be 5 percent below base year levels in 2010 as a result of measures already implemented.

The implementation of additional measures is projected to reduce the EU-25 greenhouse gas emissions to 9.3 percent below 1990 levels by 2010 and, with the use of Kyoto flexibility mechanisms, to 11.3 percent below the year 1990 levels.

The December 2005 report concludes that the EU-15 states can meet their target of 8 percent below the 1990 levels if the additional domestic measures and the Kyoto flexibility mechanisms that are planned are implemented.

According to the February 14, 2006 statement of the acting head of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Richard Kinley, 34 industrialized countries under the Kyoto Treaty were "on their way to lower their emissions levels by at least 3.5% below the 1990 levels during the first commitment period." "With the help of additional measures and the use of Kyoto market-based mechanisms, they will as a group be able reach their agreed Kyoto reduction targets."